

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, ID, PORG

SUBJ: MEETING KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF SUDOMO ON
HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) STATE 193566, (B) JAKARTA 7692

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. AS PART OF CONTINUING CONTACT WITH GOI ON QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN PREPARATION FOR POSSIBLE CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO INDONESIA (REF A), I CALLED AUG 26 ON KOPKAMTIB (COMMAND FOR RESTORATION OF SECURITY AND ORDER) CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO, WHO HAD WITH HIM DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE CHIEF MAJGEN BENNY MURDANI. SUDOMO OUTLINED STATUS OF 1965 DETAINEES, STATING INTER ALIA 1,500 CLASS B WOULD SOON BE RECLASSIFIED C AND RELEASED. SHARING VIEW CONGRESSIONAL VISIT COULD BE PRODUCTIVE, SUDOMO SAID HE WOULD ASK PRESIDENT SUHARTO CONCERNING A TRIP TO BURU BY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, AND WOULD LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF MAKING PUBLIC REPORT PREPARED BY INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF RED CROSS (ICRC) TEAM WHICH VISITED INDONESIA IN 1974. END SUMMARY.

2. AT OPENING OF MEETING I OUTLINED CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTION IN COUNTRIES WHICH RECEIVE US AID
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AND OUR BELIEF PROPERLY HANDLED CONGRESSIONAL VISIT TO

INDONESIA COULD INCREASE THEIR UNDERSTANDING SPECIAL PROBLEM OF 1965 DETAINEES, USING LANGUAGE SIMILAR TO PARA 3 REF B. NOTING THAT CASE OF 1974 DETAINEES APPARENTLY BEING CONCLUDED THROUGH JUDICIAL PROCESSES, I STATED THAT ANY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION WHICH MIGHT VISIT INDONESIA COULD BE EXPECTED NEVERTHELESS TO CONCENTRATE ON 1965 DETAINEES AND TO ASK (A) WHAT IS THEIR PRESENT CONDITION AND, IN THIS CONTEXT, WOULD VISIT TO BURU BE POSSIBLE; (B) IS THERE ANY REPORT ISSUED BY INTERNATIONAL BODY WHICH MIGHT BE MADE AVAILABLE, AND (C) WHAT ARE PROSPECTS FOR ULTIMATE RESOLUTION OF DETAINEE QUESTION?

3. SUDOMO STATED THAT THERE 540,000 CATEGORY C (SEE REF B AND EARLIER MESSAGES FOR DESCRIPTION OF CATEGORIES) PERSONS WHO ALL RELEASED AND FREE TO LIVE NORMALLY WITH EXCEPTION OF PROHIBITION ON THEIR WORKING FOR GOVERNMENT OR IN SENSITIVE INDUSTRIES. IN ADDITION THERE 140,000 CATEGORY C2 AND C3 PERSONS WHO STILL WORKING FOR GOVERNMENT AND WHO WILL BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE AND EVENTUALLY RECEIVE PENSIONS.

4. SUDOMO SAID THERE 34,000 CATEGORY B DETAINEES ALL OF WHOM WERE MEMBERS OF COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO ATTEMPTED COUP COULD NOT BE PROVED. TEN THOUSAND NOW DETAINED ON BURU AND REMAINDER ELSEWHERE. ACCORDING SUDOMO GOI PLANS TO SEND ANOTHER 10,00 TO BURU (NOTE: ATTORNEY GENERAL ALI SAID USED FIGURE OF 5,000 - PARA 10 REF B). GOI ALSO PLANS TO RECLASSIFY AS CLASS C AND RELEASE 1,500 OF LEAST DANGEROUS CLASS B DETAINEES (SUDOMO IMPLIED IN FAIRLY NEAR FUTURE). ULTIMATELY GOI HOPES THAT SOME OF BURU DETAINEES CAN BE RETURNED TO NORMAL LIFE WHILE OTHERS WILL REMAIN AS TRANSMIGRANTS. (SUDOMO HERE REPEATED OFT-HEARD REMARK THAT NON-PRISONER BURU POPULATION IS COMPLAINING ABOUT FAVORED TREATMENT OFFERED PRISONERS.)

5. CLASS A DETAINEES NUMBER 2,000. EIGHT HUNDRED HAVE BEEN TRIED AND REMAINDER WILL BE AS FAST AS COURT SYSTEM CAN HANDLE THEM.

6. TURNING TO OTHER QUESTIONS SUDOMO STATED FRANKLY THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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VISIT TO BURU WOULD REQUIRE PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL AND SAID HE PLANNED RAISE QUESTION WITH SUHARTO. SUDOMO SUGGESTED WE ASK ICRC FOR COPY OF REPORT WRITTEN BY TEAM WHICH VISITED INDONESIA IN 1974, ADDING THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REPORT NOT BE MADE PUBLIC. I NOTED THAT ULTIMATE DISPOSITION OF INFORMATION PROVIDED CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE LIES IN HANDS OF COMMITTEE AND ALMOST CERTAIN BE MADE PUBLIC IT IS SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE

MORE APPROPRIATE FOR GOI TO MAKE AVAILABLE REPORT IF IT SAW FIT TO DO SO. (NOTE: IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT AS POLICY ICRC WILL NOT RELEASE SUCH REPORTS TO THIRD PARTIES UNLESS HOST GOVERNMENT DOES SO FIRST). SUDOMO AGREED AND SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO MATTER. IN CLOSING SUDOMO INDICATED HIS SATISFACTION WITH WAY WE ARE HANDLING THIS DELICATE ISSUE, REFERRING WARMLY TO GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

7. COMMENT: BALL IS NOW IN SUDOMO'S COURT. I BELIEVE FACT THAT HE UNDERTOOK TO GET PRESIDENTIAL DECISION ON TRIP TO BURU AND HIGH-LEVEL (AND PROBABLY PRESIDENTIAL) GUIDANCE ON MAKING ICRC REPORT PUBLIC MAY INDICATE THAT SENIOR LEVELS OF GOI ARE NOW BECOMING BETTER AWARE OF IMPORTANCE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN CONGRESS AND ADVANTAGES (AND POSSIBLE PITFALLS) INVOLVED IN A CONGRESSIONAL VISIT.

8. UNTIL WE RECEIVE MORE DEFINITE ANSWER RE MATTERS RAISED ABOVE SUGGEST FOREGOING BE FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION ONLY.
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